

2009 Public Participation at Board Meetings

The board of education shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

The board shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussions and testimony presented at its meetings. The board shall make available at the meeting, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed in open session of the meeting.

The board is not required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, but it will provide the opportunity for public participation at least four times per year. The board may make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, photographing, or recording its meetings.

The board shall not require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting, nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. However, the board may require members of the public desiring to address the board to identify themselves.

Who May Address the Board

- i. Residents of the district;
- ii. Employees of the district;
- iii. Students of the district;
- iv. Parents of a student who is enrolled in the district;
- v. Individuals who have been requested by the Superintendent or Board of Education to present on given subjects;
- vi. Non-residents of the district wishing to make public comments about educational matters under the direct influence of the board of education.

Items for Board Action

Only Business Items on the published agenda will be acted on at any meeting, unless the board, by majority and in accordance with Nebraska Revised Statute §84-1411(1e), agrees that an emergency exists and that an additional action item(s) should be placed on the agenda.

To Place an Item on the Agenda

An applicant may request an item on the agenda by filing a written request with the Superintendent no later than the Wednesday preceding the regularly scheduled Board meeting. The written request should include the requestors name, address, contact information, any organization that is being represented, the purpose and rationale of the agenda item, action desired, and pertinent background information. Requests to place an item on the agenda will be at the discretion of the Superintendent after consultation with the board President. The Superintendent or board President may refer the request to other administrators or the appropriate Board committee for further discussion or research.

Public Comment - Addressing the Board

Instructions for members of the public who wish to address the board:

- **Sign-In:** The Public Comment sign-in sheet is located on the table near the entrance. If you wish to address the board during the Public Comment agenda item, your name and topic must be entered on the sheet prior to the start of the meeting.
- **Getting Started:** During the Public Comment agenda item, those members of the public who signed in prior to the start of the meeting will be recognized by the President. When you have been recognized, please identify yourself. If you are representing an organization, please state the name of the organization you are representing.
- **Time Limit:** The board will allow a total of twenty minutes for the presentation of all public comments. Individuals may speak only one time, and must limit comments to five minutes. These time limits may be changed by a majority vote of the board members in attendance to extend the time for a specific item or speaker.
- **Personnel or Student Topic:** If you are planning to speak about a personnel or a student matter involving an individual, please understand that the district has a complaint policy and/or procedures to resolve such complaints and concerns. The board requests that you follow the policy and procedures before addressing these matters with the Board. Board members will not respond to any questions you ask or comments about individual staff members or students.
- **General Rules:** This is a public meeting for the conduct of business. Comments from the audience while others are speaking will not be

tolerated. Lewd, obscene, profane, slanderous, threatening and hostile conduct or statements and fighting words (words whose mere utterance entails a call to violence) will not be tolerated.

- **No Action by the Board:** The board will not act on any matter unless it is a Business Item on the published agenda or added as an emergency Business Item in accordance with Nebraska Revised Statute §84-1411(1e).

Circulation of Materials

Any person who wished to distribute written or printed material during a Board meeting for review must submit the material to the Superintendent no later than the Wednesday preceding the regularly scheduled Board meeting for review and consideration.

Adopted on: 9-14-2020

Revised on: 1-8-2024

Reviewed on: